

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JUNE 6, 1978:
HIGHLIGHTS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 10698; (B) 77 BRUSSELS 12906;
(C) BRUSSELS 6074; (D) COPENHAGEN 2332;
(E) BRUSSELS 8618

1. SUMMARY: SEPTELS REPORT ON JUNE 6 EC FOREIGN
MINISTERS COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF: THE EC'S STEEL ANTI-
CRISIS PLAN; UK POSITION ON THE OECD STEEL COMMITTEE;
RENEWAL OF THE LOME CONVENTION; NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW
EC/YUGOSLAV COOPERATION AGREEMENT; THE SECOND LIST OF
CONDITIONAL EC TARIFF WITHDRAWALS FOR THE MTN; EC/
AUSTRALIAN TRADE RELATIONS; THE PORTUGUESE REQUEST FOR
EC ACCESSION; THE EC/PORTUGAL TEXTILES AGREEMENT;
STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR; AND EC/CEMA
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NEGOTIATIONS. OTHER COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS ARE HIGHLIGHTED
BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. PREPARATIONS FOR JULY SUMMITS: AS PART OF ITS
OVERALL COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PREPARATION OF
A COMMON EC ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRATEGY FOR THE JULY
6-7 EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN BREMEN AND THE WESTERN ECONOMIC

SUMMIT IN BONN, THE COUNCIL REVIEWED PROGRESS IN THE ENERGY AND ECONOMIC/MONETARY SECTORS. UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN TOLD REPORTERS THE MINISTERS WERE DISAPPOINTED OVER THE LACK OF POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE MAY 30 ENERGY COUNCIL (REF A); HE ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH SOME MEMBER STATES REMAIN SKEPTICAL, THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT IN THE COUNCIL THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO BRIDGE MEMBER STATE DIFFERENCES IN THE ENERGY SECTOR BEFORE THE BREMEN SUMMIT. THE COUNCIL DEVOTED VERY LITTLE DISCUSSION TO ECONOMIC AND MONETARY MATTERS AND IS TO TAKE A FINAL LOOK AT SUMMIT PREPARATIONS AT ITS JUNE 26-27 SESSION, AT WHICH TIME IT WILL REVIEW THE OUTCOME OF THE JUNE 19 FINANCE COUNCIL.

3. REGIONAL FUND: IN A DISCUSSION OF THE 1978-80 EC REGIONAL FUND (REF B), THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE NON-QUOTA SECTION OF THE FUND (FOR THE COMMISSION'S DISCRETIONARY USE ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS- SEE REF C) SHOULD BE SET AT 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL FUND ALLOCATIONS. THE MINISTERS WERE UNABLE, HOWEVER, TO DECIDE ON THE LEVEL OF EC FINANCING OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS UNDER THE FUND. ACCORDING TO PERMREP SOURCES, THE COUNCIL COULD NOT AGREE ON A DANISH PRESIDENCY PROPOSAL THAT SUCH FINANCING BE LIMITED TO 40 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL COST FOR EACH PROJECT. HOWEVER, KEY MEMBER STATES SEEM TO BE MOVING TOWARD A COMPROMISE FIGURE OF 45 PERCENT, AND OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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SOURCES EXPECT THAT THE COUNCIL MAY APPROVE THAT FIGURE AT ITS JUNE 26/27 MEETING.

4. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS: UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN INFORMED HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE ORDER IN COUNCIL FOR THE COMMONS BILL ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS OBTAINED ROYAL ASSENT ON MAY 31 AND THAT HE WOULD LIKELY SIGN THE BILL ON JUNE 6, CONCLUDING ALL NECESSARY UK RATIFICATION PROCEDURES. OWEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT, AFTER ALL OTHER MEMBER STATES HAVE COMPLETED THEIR OWN ATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES ON DIRECT ELECTIONS, THE COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE A FORMAL DECISION ON DATES FOR THE FIRST ELECTION, RATIFYING THE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY THE COPENHAGEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL (REF D) THAT ELECTION SHOULD BE HELD FROM JUNE 7-10, 1979. OWEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE OBTAINED GENERAL AGREEMENT FROM THE OTHER MEMBER STATES THAT, AT THE SAME TIME THE COUNCIL DECIDES ON DATES, IT SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER THE ISSUE OF PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES, ALTHOUGH HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE UK IS NOT LINKING THE TWO QUESTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, OWEN SAID THAT HE FEELS PARLIAMENTARIANS SHOULD RECEIVE THE SAME PAY AS

MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS, ALONG WITH
SEPARATE ALLOWANCES. HE ALSO SAID THAT PARLIAMENTARIANS
SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PAY NATIONAL TAXES IN THE MEMBER
STATES THEY REPRESENT.

5. POLISH FOOTWEAR IMPORTS: ACCORDING TO A COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN, THE IRISH REPEATED THE CONCERN THEY
EXPRESSED AT THE MAY 2 COUNCIL MEETING OVER LEATHER SHOE
IMPORTS FROM POLAND (REF E). THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT
THE COMMISSION, IN REPLY, INDICATED THAT CONSULTATIONS
HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH THE POLES AND THAT WARSAW SEEMS
PREPARED TO ACCEPT VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON FOOTWEAR
EXPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THERE WAS
NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE. HINTON
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